Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

April 25, 1951
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CONFIDENTIAL

James M. McInerney
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division
William Bradford Huie,
Information Concerning

In the April 1951 edition of the American Mercury Magazine there appears an article beginning on page 413 entitled "Who Gave Russia the A-Bomb?" by William Bradford Huie. In this article Huie, in discussing the espionage activities of Joseph Weinberg and Steve Nelson, makes statements to the effect that the Department of Justice refused to authorize the arrest of these individuals when informed in 1943 that Weinberg had delivered a vital formula to Nelson, and likewise declined to act after being informed that agents of the FBI and the Counter-Intelligence Corps of the Army had witnessed Nelson passing the formula to Russian Vice-Consul Peter Ivanov. According to Huie's article, "the agents begged for permission" to stop these transfers but the State and Justice Departments refused to intervene.

Our files reflect that the Department of Justice did not receive information on the Weinberg-Nelson espionage operation until March 1946. I would appreciate it if you would confirm this fact from your own records. In addition, I would be interested in having the benefit of any information that may have come to your attention previously concerning William Bradford Huie.

RECORD

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BY A.M.
Cn

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Records
Mr. Nicholson

Declassified on 4/1/87
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